



A.D. 1868, 15th APRIL. N^o 1602.

S P E C I F I C A T I O N

OF

WILLIAM ROBERT LAKE.

EMBALMING.

LONDON:

PRINTED BY GEORGE E. EYRE AND WILLIAM SPOTTISWOODE,

PRINTERS TO THE QUEEN'S MOST EXCELLENT MAJESTY:

PUBLISHED AT THE GREAT SEAL PATENT OFFICE,

25, SOUTHAMPTON BUILDINGS, HOLBORN.

1868.



A.D. 1868, 15th *MAY*. N° 1602.

Embalming.

LETTERS PATENT to William Robert Lake, of the "International Patent Office," No. 8, Southampton Buildings, Chancery Lane, in the County of Middlesex, Consulting Engineer, for the Invention of "**AN IMPROVED MODE OF EMBALMING OR PRESERVING DEAD BODIES.**"—
A communication from abroad by Charles Augustus Seely, Charles James Eames, William Robert Cotton Clark, and Mary Louisa Booth, all of the City and State of New York, United States of America.

Sealed the 10th November 1868, and dated the 15th May 1868.

PROVISIONAL SPECIFICATION left by the said William Robert Lake at the Office of the Commissioners of Patents, with his Petition, on the 15th May 1868.

I, **WILLIAM ROBERT LAKE**, of the "International Patent Office,"
5 No. 8, Southampton Buildings, Chancery Lane, in the County of Middlesex, Consulting Engineer, do hereby declare the nature of the said Invention for "**AN IMPROVED MODE OF EMBALMING OR PRESERVING DEAD BODIES,**" a communication, to be as follows:—

The nature of my Invention consists in the impregnation of dead
10 bodies with carbolic acid or other equivalent antiseptic liquid. I apply

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the antiseptic liquid to the surface of the body, and also when deemed advisable inject it into the stomach and intestinal canal.

For the external application I take a solution of the acid in water or other convenient solvent, and wash the body with it by means of a sponge or cloth, and when the first washing has been finished I 5 repeat the operation one or more times, or when convenient I immerse the body in a weak solution of the acid for a short time, or I saturate cloths with a solution of the acid, and then wrap or wind them around the body and allow them to remain thereon. The body thus brought in contact with the liquid absorbs it by degrees and the decomposition 10 of the body is arrested or prevented. I have found that in many cases and especially in cold weather the external application of the antiseptic liquid is sufficient to prevent change within a few days; but when it is desirable to keep the body for a long time I inject a small quantity of such antiseptic liquid into the cavities of the chest and abdomen. 15 I make the injection by means of a syringe and at the natural external openings to the cavities. The amount of liquid to be injected should be at least a few ounces, and there is no objection to the use of such a quantity as will distend the cavities. In addition to the applications of the antiseptic liquid as above described, I sometimes 20 find it useful to place cotton, wool, lint, or cloth saturated with the acid in the nostrils and in the ears.

My process when carried out as above described is efficient for the preservation of a body during the ordinary interval between death and burial; but when the process is used as an embalming process, 25 or when there are no objections to making incisions in the body, I prefer to inject the acid into the arteries and veins, or in addition to the ordinary internal or external application of the acid I inject some of the acid through an opening of the skull into the substance of the brain. For a further security against the decomposition of 30 the body and especially when the cloths saturated with liquid are not kept permanently thereon, I place at the bottom or sides of the coffin sheets of felt or cloth or similar fibrous material which has been saturated with the antiseptic liquid. In combination with carbolic acid I sometimes use bi-sulphate of lime and bi-sulphate of soda and 35 a solution of sulphurous or acetic acid with advantage; but carbolic acid is the most active and useful agent for the purpose, and any

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addition thereto is not essential. A mixture of carbolic acid and saw-dust or other inert granular matter may often be advantageously used in the bottom of the coffin.

SPECIFICATION in pursuance of the conditions of the Letters Patent,
5 filed by the said William Robert Lake in the Great Seal Patent Office on the 13th November 1868.

TO ALL TO WHOM THESE PRESENTS SHALL COME, I, WILLIAM ROBERT LAKE, of the "International Patent Office," No. 8, Southampton Buildings, Chancery Lane, in the County of Middlesex, Consulting Engineer, send greeting.
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WHEREAS Her most Excellent Majesty Queen Victoria, by Her Letters Patent, bearing date the Fifteenth day of May, in the year of our Lord One thousand eight hundred and sixty-eight, in the thirty-first year of Her reign, did, for Herself, Her heirs and successors,
15 give and grant unto me, the said William Robert Lake, Her special licence that I, the said William Robert Lake, my executors, administrators, and assigns, or such others as I, the said William Robert Lake, my executors, administrators, and assigns, should at any time agree with, and no others, from time to time and at all times thereafter during the
20 term therein expressed, should and lawfully might make, use, exercise, and vend, within the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Ireland, the Channel Islands, and Isle of Man, an Invention for "**AN IMPROVED MODE OF EMBALMING OR PRESERVING DEAD BODIES,**" upon the condition (amongst others) that I, the said William Robert Lake, my executors
25 or administrators, by an instrument in writing under my, or their or one of their hands and seals, should particularly describe and ascertain the nature of the said Invention, and in what manner the same was to be performed, and cause the same to be filed in the Great Seal Patent Office within six calendar months next and immediately after
30 the date of the said Letters Patent.

NOW KNOW YE, that I, the said William Robert Lake, do hereby declare the nature of the said Invention, and in what manner the same is to be performed, to be particularly described and ascertained in and by the following statement:—

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The nature of my Invention consists in the impregnation of dead bodies with carbolic acid or other equivalent antiseptic liquid. I apply the antiseptic liquid to the surface of the body, and also when deemed advisable inject it into the stomach and intestinal canal and also into the arteries, veins, and skull.

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For the external application I take a solution of the acid in water or other convenient solvent, and wash the body with it by means of a sponge or cloth, and when the first washing has been finished I repeat the operation one or more times, or when convenient I immerse the body in a weak solution of the acid for a short time, or I saturate cloths with a solution of the acid, and then wrap or wind the body in the cloths so saturated and allow the cloths thus to remain on the body. The body thus brought in contact with the liquid absorbs it by degrees, and the decomposition of the body is arrested or prevented. I have found that in many cases, and especially in cold weather, the external application of the antiseptic liquid is sufficient to prevent change within a few days; but when it is desirable to keep the body for a long time I inject a small quantity of the antiseptic liquid into the cavities of the chest and abdomen. I make the injection by means of a syringe, and at the natural external openings to the cavities. The amount of liquid to be injected should be at least a few ounces, and there is no objection to the use of such a quantity as will distend the cavities. In addition to the applications of the antiseptic liquid as above described I sometimes find it useful to place cotton, wool, lint, or cloth saturated with the acid in the nostrils and in the ears.

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My process when carried out as above described is efficient for the preservation of a body during the ordinary interval between death and burial; but when the process is used as an embalming process, or when there are no objections to making incisions in the body I prefer to inject the acid into the arteries and veins; or in addition to the ordinary internal or external application of the acid I inject some of the acid through an opening of the skull into the substance of the brain. For a further security against the decomposition of the body, and especially when the cloths saturated with liquid are not kept permanently about the body, I place at the bottom or sides of the coffin sheets of felt, or cloth, or similar fibrous material which has been saturated or dampened with the antiseptic liquid. In combination with carbolic acid I sometimes use bi-sulphate of lime and bi-sulphate of

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soda and a solution of sulphurous or acetic acid with advantage, but carbolic acid has been found the most active and useful agent for the purpose, and any addition thereto is not essential to a successful result. A mixture of carbolic acid and sawdust or other inert granular matter
5 may often be advantageously used in the bottom of the coffin.

Having thus fully described the said Invention as communicated to me by my foreign correspondents, and shown how the same may be conveniently and advantageously carried into practice, I claim as my Invention,—

10 First. The process for preserving dead bodies, substantially as described.

Second. The use of carbolic acid and combinations of carbolic acid with other substances for the preservation and embalming of dead bodies.

15 In witness whereof, I, the said William Robert Lake, have hereunto set my hand and seal, this Thirteenth day of November, in the year of our Lord One thousand eight hundred and sixty-eight.

WILLIAM ROBERT LAKE. (L.S.)

20 Witness,

THO^s. N. PALMER,

Clerk to Messrs. Haseltine, Lake, & Co.,

8, Southampton Buildings,

W. C.

LONDON:

Printed by GEORGE EDWARD EYRE and WILLIAM SPOTTISWOODE,
Printers to the Queen's most Excellent Majesty. 1868.



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